

TABLE I — TEMPERATURE SERIES AT 30 SECONDS INTERVAL

Birds	Readings										
A	91.6	91.9	92.7	93.9	95.2	96.3	96.2	96.1	96.7	97.9	98.6
B	99.2	99.9	101.6	102.7	104.1	106.7	108.1	109.9	111.0	112.5	112.7
C	101.9	101.9	102.1	102.6	102.8	103.1	103.6	104.0	105.1	106.2	108.2
D	100.0	101.1	102.6	104.1	105.2	106.3	106.9	107.3	107.9	108.8	109.6

(continued)

Birds	Readings									Range
A	100.1	102.0	102.4	104.1	106.1	108.7	106.4	106.1	102.7	17.1
B	109.8	108.6	106.4	107.2	106.1	104.2	102.6	100.1	102.2	13.5
C	110.1	109.1	106.7	106.0	105.2	103.9	102.6	101.9	102.2	8.2
D	111.1	112.7	113.5	114.1	112.0	111.6	111.2	110.3	109.8	14.7

Geographical Variation in the South African Populations of *Malaconotus blanchoti* Stephens with the Description of a New Race

by MR. P. A. CLANCEY

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About seven geographical races of the large and massive-billed Grey-headed Bush-shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* Stephens are currently recognized. These are based mainly on the amount of russet colouration on the breast, which is absent or vestigial in some races, notably in *M.b. monteiri* (Sharpe) of Angola and *M.b. catharoxanthus* Neumann described from the Bahr-el-Ghazal in the southern Sudan, and extremely prominent in others, such as *M.b. schoanus* Neumann of southern Abyssinia and *M.b. approximans* (Cabanis) of coastal East Africa. Some workers have laboured to discredit these races, but Chapin, in his great work, *The Birds of the Belgian Congo*, part iv, 1954, p. 41, correctly points out that "despite any opinion to the contrary, the variation in brownish colour on the chest is geographic." The most austral in distribution of the named races is *M.b. hypopyrrhus* Hartlaub, 1844: Africa—restricted type-locality Durban, Natal, which supposedly ranges from the eastern Cape Province, Natal, Zululand, etc., northwards to parts of the extreme eastern Belgian Congo, western and southern districts of Tanganyika Territory and the Nairobi district of Kenya Colony. In their recent *Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa*, vol. ii, 1955, p. 636, Mackworth-Praed and Grant sink *M.b. hypopyrrhus* into the synonymy of *M.b. blanchoti* Stephens, 1826: West Africa, which they now aver actually came from South Africa. Stephens' *Malaconotus blanchoti* is based on La Piegriche Blanchot of Levallant, *Histoire naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique*, vol. vi, 1808, p. 122, pl. 285, which unquestionably come from Senegal and not southern Africa. According to Levallant, the bird was obtained by M. Blanchot, a one-time governor of Senegal, who deposited the specimen in the rich collection of a M. Raye de Breukelerwaert of Amsterdam. On the basis

of the Levaillant figure, it could conceivably be postulated that the species depicted is not the Grey-headed Bush-shrike at all, because of the diminutive nature of the bill and the curiously marmorated ventral surfaces. In many respects the figure could apply just as easily to the Orange-breasted Bush-shrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* (Lesson), 1831: Senegal. The fact that Levaillant's artist depicted a bird with a bill far too small for any of the heavy-billed gladiator-shrikes seems almost to negative the claims of those protagonists who would have us use the name *M. blanchoti* for the species under discussion (see Grote, *Anz. Ornith. Gesellsch. Bayern*, vol. ii, 1936, pp. 373-374). Furthermore, at the time Levaillant's work appeared little of this species' South African range was accessible, and that only the bay of Port Natal, where ships occasionally called to take on supplies of fresh water and to barter with the natives for ivory and slaves. It is almost certain that very few birds were collected in Natal until shortly after the Napoleonic Wars, when a small but vigorous European settlement was established, and with the gradual opening up of the country, Port Natal (i.e. Durban) became an important centre for collectors of natural history specimens. I cannot concede that there are really valid reasons for believing that the original specimen of Levaillant's La Piegrieche Blanchot came from South and not West Africa, and for the purpose of this short paper on the geographical variation in the southern Africa populations I consider that *M. b. blanchoti* is the correct name for the West African race.

A recent study of material of this species preserved in the collections of the East London, Durban, Natal and Transvaal Museums shows that the South African populations are divisible into two races on the colouration of the head-top, nape and mantle. A series of eight specimens from the eastern Cape Province (Committees Drift, on the Great Fish River; East London; Kei Bridge on the Great Kei River) and Pondoland (Embotyi; Mntafufu River) is separable from a long series from Natal, the Transvaal and southern Portuguese East Africa in having the grey of the head-top and nape slightly but distinctly darker, and the yellowish olive (about the *Serpentine Green* of Ridgway, "Color Standard and Color Nomenclature," 1912, pl. vxi) of the mantle and rump darker and more greenish. The pale yellow apices to the tail-feathers are also smaller. The distinctions shown by the eastern Cape Province and Pondoland populations warrant their nomenclatural segregation from those of Natal northwards, and it would seem more in accord with the fact now available to recognize two races of *M. blanchoti* from the South African sub-continent instead of the present one. *Malaconotus hypopyrrhus* Hartlaub, 1844: Africa, has had its type-locality restricted to Durban, Natal, by Sclater, *Systema Avium Aethiopicarum*, part ii, 1930, p. 636, and this name is applicable to the populations of Natal, Zululand, the Transvaal, Swaziland, Portuguese East Africa, Southern Rhodesia, etc., northwards. For the populations of the eastern Cape Province no name appears to be available, and to fill this void I propose *M. b. extremus* mihi below.

The discovery of this new race of *M. blanchoti* is interesting because until the publication of Hewitt's *A Guide to the Fauna of the Albany District*, part i, Vertebrates, 1918, p. 41, this species was apparently not known to occur south of the Pondoland forests, and judging by recent

communications appearing in the *Ostrich* (*vide* Fulque Agnew, *tom.cit.*, vol. xxiv, 3, 1953, p. 184; Taylor, *idem*, vol. xxvi, 3, 1955, p. 158), it is still little-known in the eastern Cape. None of the early travellers apparently recorded its presence in that territory (see Stark and Sclater, *Birds of South Africa*, vol. ii, 1901, p. 41, who record it as ranging from Natal "a short distance into Eastern Cape Colony," i.e. to Pondoland). Roberts, *Birds of South Africa*, 1940, p. 307, also states that its southern limit of range is Pondoland, as does Vincent, *Check List of the Birds of South Africa*, 1952, p. 94, from which region it was made known by the collecting activities of Shortridge, Swinny and others. Recent field-work by the staffs of the Durban and East London Museums in the eastern Cape shows that the species occurs locally and not uncommonly certainly as far south as the country lying between the Sundays and Great Fish Rivers.

The populations of the Grey-headed Bush-shrike occurring in the South African sub-continent can be arranged in two races, the nomenclature, characters and ranges of which are as follows:—

1. *Malaconotus blanchoti hypopyrrhus* Hartlaub

Malaconotus hypopyrrhus Hartlaub, *Systematisches Verzeichniss der naturhistorischen Sammlung der Gesellschaft Museum, Bremen*, abth. 1, Vögel, 1844, p. 61: Africa—restricted type-locality, Durban, Natal, *apud* Sclater, *Systema Avium Aethiopicarum*, part ii, 1930, p. 636.

Top of head and nape grey—close to the *Dark Gull Grey* of Ridgway, *loc. cit.*, pl. liii—about UUV-7-1° (Villalobos *Colour Atlas*, Buenos Aires, 1947); mantle and rump near *Serpentine Green* (about YYL-7-8°). Underside clear, bright yellow, the breast, and to a lesser degree the sides of the body, moderately washed with russet.

Wings 112.5-117 (115.1), culmens from base 31.5-35.5 (34.1), tails 103.5-113 (107.6) mm. Ten measured.

Material: 35.

Range: From Natal (coastal and midland districts), Zululand, Swaziland and the eastern and northern Transvaal to Southern Rhodesia and southern Portuguese East Africa. Extralimittally to Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, northern Portuguese East Africa, southern and western districts of Tanganyika Territory, extreme eastern Belgian Congo in Ruanda-Urundi, north to the Nairobi district of Kenya Colony. Intergrading to the north and north-east of its range with *M.b.schoanus* and *M.b.approximans*, and in the north-west with *M.b.interpositus* Hartert.

2. *Malaconotus blanchoti extremus*, subsp.nov.

Similar to *M.b.hypopyrrhus* as above defined but grey of head-top and nape darker, near to the *Slate Grey* of Ridgway, *loc. cit.*, pl. liii (about UUV-5-1°); mantle and rump darker and greener, less yellowish (about YYL-7-6°). Wings and tail rather darker and greener, and ventrally averaging rather duller, the breast slightly darker russet. Pale yellowish apices to tail-feathers smaller in series.

Wings 111-120.5 (115.5), culmens from base 32.5-35 (33.6), tails 105-113.5 (108.8) mm. Eight measured.

Material: 8.

Type: ♂ adult. Committees Drift, on the Great Fish River, Albany district, eastern Cape Province. 2nd October, 1956. Collected by P. A. Clancey. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

Measurements of the Type: Wing 120.5, culmen 34+, tail 113.5 mm.

Range: In the eastern Cape Province from about the Albany and King William's Town districts to the east of the Sundays River north-eastwards to the forests of East Griqualand and coastal Pondoland.

On a Pattern Translocation in the Scottish Jay

by MR. ALFRED HAZELWOOD AND MR. ERIC GORTON

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Although the colour and pattern of the crest of the Scottish Jay *Garrulus glandarius caledoniensis nobis* are remarkably consistent for the species, a recent example, an adult ♀ from Perthshire, shows a most unusual divergence.

The feathers of the forecrown are quite normal, being black with white fringes, but the longer feathers of the crest are blue with black transverse markings to a degree which recalls the pattern of the wing coverts, although the blue is of greater intensity. The purplish suffusion of the hind-neck which is so characteristic of this form is somewhat reduced and the amount of barring on the tail is less than usual. With a wing of 201 mm. the bird approaches the maximum (202 mm.) of this long-winged race.

In another specimen the normal pattern of light and dark blue on the primary and secondary coverts is replaced by one in which the dark barring occurs at irregular intervals and in some places is missing altogether, the pigment being fairly evenly distributed over the barbs in a way which suggests that the colour has "run." In addition this bird has an unusual amount of blue barring on the chestnut median coverts.

Since the wing-coverts of the first bird and the crest of the second are normal, it seems apparent that different genes are involved in the deposition of the pigment in these areas and in the structural modifications of the feather which enhance the colour.

A new race of the Long-billed Rock Pipit, *Anthus similis*, from Burma

by MRS. B. P. HALL

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The Long-Billed Rock Pipit, *Anthus similis* Jerdon, reaches the eastern limit of its range in the hills of Central Burma where there is an isolated population widely separated from the nearest race, *A.s.jerdoni* (Finsch), of the Punjab, United Provinces and Central India. Up to the present this Burmese population has been associated with *A.s.jerdoni* since it is similar in colour, but comparison of measurements shows the Burmese birds to be conspicuously and consistently smaller.

		Wing	Bill	Tail	Hind Claw	Tarsus
<i>A.s.jerdoni</i>	♂	94-105	19-21	71-80	9-11	26-29
	♀	92-99	18-20	69-77	10-11	26-29
Burmese race	♂	87-92	18-19	67-73	8-10	24-26
	♀	84-89	18	66-67	9-11	24-26

I propose that these birds shall be called

Anthus similis yamethini new race

Description: Similar to *A.s.jerdoni* in colour and pattern but smaller.